

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01241 211805Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 181830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9230

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1241

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1.: "BARBADOS" VICE "ANTIGUA"
IN LINE 6)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA PFOR

SUBJ: RECENT VISIT TO US OF PREMIER GEORGE WALTER OF ANTIGUA

1. AS DEPT AWARE, PREMIER GEORGE WALTER OF ANTIGUA RECENTLY VISITED WASHINGTON AND HELD TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF USG PRESUMABLY WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. I FIRST LEARNED OF THESE TALKS WHEN DCM, IN COURSE OF ROUTINE VISIT TO ANTIGUA, MET WALTER AND WAS INFORMED OF THEM. WALTER ALSO TOLD DCM THAT HE WOULD BE PASSING THROUGH BARBADOS ON WAY HOME FROM A CONFERENCE IN NOVA SCOTIA WEEK OF JULY 14 AND WOULD CALL ON AMBASSADOR, TO WHOM HE SENT WARMEST REGARDS. ALTHOUGH WALTER DID, IN FACT, TRANSIT BARBADOS AND EVEN REMAINED HERE FOR SOME TIME, I DID NOT HEAR FROM HIM. HE WAS HOSTED AT A PARTY BY CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR BLACKMAN.

2. BEING COGNIZANT OF WALTER'S INEXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND LACK OF COORDINATION IN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, I AM NOT INCLINED TO TAKE THESE FAILURES TO OBSERVE PROPER COURTESIES TOO SERIOUSLY, NOR AM I OFFENDED. OUR PERSONAL RELATIONS ARE VERY GOOD, AND I BELIEVE HE REGARDS ME AS A FRIEND. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, SO LONG AS HE CONTINUES TO COMMIT THESE "OVERSIGHTS", PROBLEMS MAY BE CREATED THAT COULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND, I CALLED GOVERNOR OF ANTIGUA, SIR WILFRED JACOBS, BY TELEPHONE AND, KNOWING THAT JACOBS (UNLIKE MOST OTHER GOVERNORS IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN) PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE

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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01241 211805Z

IN GOVERNMENT, INSISTING, FOR EXAMPLE, ON BEING SHOWN ALL DRAFT

BILLS BEFORE THEY GO THE FULL PARLIAMENTARY ROUTE, I ASKED HIM TO POINT OUT TO THE PREMIER THAT NOT ONLY PROTOCOL BUT ALSO GOOD PRACTICE REQUIRED THAT EMBASSY BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF TRAVEL TO US BY MINISTERS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. JACOBS PROMISED TO DO SO BUT POINTED OUT THAT WALTER WAS NOTORIOUSLY BADLY ORGANIZED.

3. SHOULD WALTER AGAIN CONTACT DEPT DIRECTLY, I HOPE EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACQUAINT HIM WITH EMBASSY'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS ANTIGUA AND TO BRING HIM TO UNDERSTANDING OF FACT THAT ALTHOUGH HIS PRESENCE MAY BE WELCOMED AT STATE, HIS CONTACTS WITH USG SHOULD PROPERLY BE CONDUCTED THROUGH ME. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WALTER HAS A PROBLEM WITH ME OR MY STAFF, WE WOULD EXPECT PROMPT NOTICE.

BRITTON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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